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### The Leaf

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## THE LEAF

Out of the woods  
into a clearing,  
I approach a dead tree,  
its single, crinkled leaf  
hanging like an adjective.

A nailed, white sign  
mars the trunk,  
warning trespassers  
of impending  
action by law.

Three sparrows flit  
over the bare, gray limbs,  
chirping my acquittal.

Ben Tibbs